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January 4, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Group (CI) Meeting
2 p.m., Thursday, January 3, 1963

PRESENT: Mr. Johnson, the Attorney General, Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. McCone,
Mr. Murrow, Mr. Coffin, Mr. Dungan, General Krulak vice
General Taylor

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED,
6/26/2003

Mr. Martin was present for Items 1 and 2.

Miss Wienert was present for Item 3.

1. Review by Mr. Martin of Potential Trouble Spots in Latin America

Mr. Martin gave an oral presentation on the potential trouble spots in Latin America which may flare up during 1963. In summary review he described several countries as moving into a period of increasing tensions, as they approach election periods, and diverse interests begin jockeying for power. He noted in particular that the U.S. will be faced with the problem of deciding what to do about the Duvalier regime in Haiti, about the Communist threat developing in Peru, and the Arevalo problem in Guatemala. Mr. Martin described the Dominican Republic as faced with a critical period between now and the February 27 inauguration of the President-elect. Costa Rica, which has been considered by the Embassy to be threatened by Castro/Communist insurgents, appears to be out of danger at this time, owing to recent security measures taken by the Government of Costa Rica. Brazil is beginning to show signs that President Goulart may now be prepared to take certain steps toward improving the economic and political situation. The Arosemena problem in Ecuador appears to have quieted for the time being, although Mr. Martin warned that this probably will flare up again, and may lead to a change in the presidency this year. In Argentina the economic situation is improving, but little progress has been made in overcoming the political problems posed by the estrangement of the Peronistas from the government.

Mr. Martin warned that the Communist parties in Latin America will probably follow a tougher line, and will increasingly attempt to resort to violence as they fail to achieve progress toward their objectives through propaganda and non-violent efforts. On the other hand, the general situation throughout Latin America appears to be somewhat better than last year. However, he noted that progress creates new problems which will have to be solved in turn.

Mr. Dungan observed that current MAP programs reflect a continuing large expenditure of funds for traditional types of military assistance, rather than for the desired emphasis on internal security. He pointed out that such assistance is still being used for naval vessels, advanced

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electronic equipment, and modern aircraft. It was noted that NSAM 206 has directed the departments and agencies to review this whole subject with the intention of giving added emphasis to internal security.

Mr. Murrow requested information on those countries where model civic action programs are being carried out, which could be used by USIA in information programs. General Krulak indicated that in Colombia and Ecuador there are effective civic action programs underway. He will arrange to supply Mr. Murrow with additional information.

The Attorney General said that, during his recent visit to Fort Gulick, he was concerned to find that of the 435 Latin American students who have taken courses, only 17 have taken the counterinsurgency course. This illustrated to him that we are not giving sufficient emphasis in Latin America to counterinsurgency training...He requested that the military school programs in Panama be reviewed to insure that adequate emphasis is given to counterinsurgency training, and that greater numbers of Latin American students are brought into this training program. General Krulak will review the situation and submit a report.

2. Internal Defense Plan for Venezuela

The Chairman reviewed the six recommendations contained in the Ambassador's airgram, which transmitted the internal defense plan, and indicated the position of the Latin American Policy Committee on each. In approving the plan for planning purposes, it was agreed that Venezuela should remain under the Group's cognizance.

3. Progress Report on the Proposed Medical Aid Programs for Laos and Thailand

The Group noted AID's progress report, which described the latter's support to the dispensaries established earlier in Laos by the U. S. White Star Teams [redacted] AID has arranged for the resupply of medical items, and a training program. In Thailand, AID is assisting in the development of a medical school at Chiengmai. No information was available on the status of General Lemnitzer's proposal of July 3, 1962, for the establishment of a non-professional medical school in Thailand, to train village volunteers from Thailand and Laos in simple first aid and medical procedures. Mr. Johnson will determine the status of this proposal, and will also arrange for the preparation of a summary report on an outstanding proposal to establish or augment medical activities of police, paramilitary, and military forces in underdeveloped countries. The Chairman observed that such an activity would be a natural adjunct to the responsibilities of the provincial police in Thailand.

Miscellaneous

A. Mr. Murrow informed the members that USIA is faced with the problem of a possible Communist takeover of public information facilities

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in Vientiane, and noted that the Soviets now have an agreement with the Lao Government to set up a 50 KW radio. The Lao Minister of Information, a Communist, apparently intends to take over the Lao Photo News, a weekly newspaper supported by USIA.

B. In response to an inquiry from the Attorney General, the Chairman confirmed that the Group does not now have responsibility for programs in Laos. (The minutes of the meeting of May 17, 1962, relate to this subject.)

C. Following a statement by the Attorney General concerning the role of the Special Group (CI), a general discussion ensued relating to the Group's responsibilities, and as to whether or not they should be amended. The Attorney General emphasized that the President looks upon the Group as having wider responsibilities than the members seem to interpret them to be. He suggested that the members give consideration to what the Group should now be doing. Mr. Johnson said that in his opinion the terms of reference under NSAM 124 include the development and subsequent monitoring of such activities as police support, doctrine, training, and internal defense plans. The Group's role at present is to maintain momentum on the implementation of these activities, and to resolve interdepartmental problems as they may arise. The Attorney General commented that, although these have been our terms of reference, he feels the monitoring of programs is too restrictive, and that the members should give thought to redefining the Group's responsibilities.

D. A proposed revision of the second sentence of the third item in the minutes of December 20, 1962 was approved. It should now read as follows;

"It was noted that CIA is turning over to Defense a large overt, paramilitary program, in accordance with NSAM 57 and NSAM 162."

E. The Group noted a JCS paper entitled, "Joint Counterinsurgency Concept and Doctrinal Guidance". The paper, dated November 20, 1962, is the JCS response to NSAM 182, which directed each department and agency to prepare its own departmental doctrine for counterinsurgency.

Thomas W. Davis Jr.
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Executive Secretary

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